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Viewing cable 09PORTAUPRINCE888, SUSPECTED TRAFFICKER AND NOTED JUDICIAL REFORMER LOSES SENATE LEADERSHIP POSITION

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09PORTAUPRINCE888**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09PORTAUPRINCE888	2009-10-23 12:48	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Port Au Prince

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.haiti-liberte.com/archives/volume4-51/vendeur%20de%20drogue.asp>

<http://www.haiti-liberte.com/archives/volume4-51/Mafia%20boss.asp>

VZCZCXRO8317
OO RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #0888 2961248
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 231248Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0459
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 2400
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0438
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2113
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0418
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 1477
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 000888

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR, DRL, S/CRS,
INL FOR KEVIN BROWN, HEATHER WILD AND MEAGAN MCBRIDE
INR/IAA
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/02/2019

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SUBJECT: SUSPECTED TRAFFICKER AND NOTED JUDICIAL REFORMER LOSES SENATE LEADERSHIP POSITION

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 863

Classified By: Ambassador Kenneth H. Merten. Reason: E.O. 12958 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) SUMMARY. The Haitian Senate's Justice and Security Commission elected a new president and vice-president on October 19, tossing out the controversial chairman Youri Latortue. Although an opposition member was selected as the new president of the commission, the new vice-president is likely to be the key player. This change makes it possible for President Preval to move forward with the replacement of the Supreme Court judges, as he had told Department Counselor Mills in a recent meeting (reftel). Other commissions have also changed officers, with Preval's majority LESPWA party obtaining all the chairmanships. END SUMMARY.

12. (U) The Justice and Security Commission met on October 19 in the diplomatic lounge at the Senate to elect new officers. O Latortue, former president of the Justice Commission, claimed that LESPWA members and allies pushed him out by holding the election without his knowledge. He decried the procedure as "'anti-constitutional'" in a radio interview on the morning of October 20. Jean Rodolph Joasile, the new president of the commission, is technically in the opposition (FUSION) but is not a strong player according to UN observers. Jean Hector Anacasis, now vice-president, is close to Preval. He is likely to be the key player on the commission.

13. (C) With the election earlier this year of senators loyal to Preval giving the President a majority, it was not a surprise that new Senate leadership elections were held giving the ruling LESPWA control. Preval had held off naming a new Supreme Court because he did not want to have to select magistrates from a list submitted by the Senate committee under the leadership of Latortue, who is widely rumored to have ties to drug trafficking. Latortue's removal will enable the committee to propose names of justices who will not owe their positions to Latortue.

14. (C) COMMENT. This re-shuffling is the latest maneuver by Preval to consolidate his power and influence ahead of upcoming legislative and presidential elections. Preval replaced several of the controversial figures on the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), including the CEP's president and vice-president. In light of the irregularities and the exclusion of Fanmi Lavalas during the past senatorial elections, followed by the forceful validation of the new Senators, opposition leaders have expressed their concern that they are being pushed out of the political scene at the expense of Preval's ambitions to keep a direct or indirect hold on power after the presidential elections of 2010.

MERTEN